Experimentation

Background

Lab experimentation is conducted to meet Service Title X responsibilities and to provide Marine Corps contributions to Joint Concept Development and Experimentation (JCDE). Experimentation efforts are guided by the *Defense Planning Guidance*, *Marine Corps Strategy 21, Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare (EMW), Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare Capabilities List (ECL)* along with input from the Advocates, Marine Corps Combat Development Command (MCCDC), Office of Naval Research and a variety of other sources. The Lab is responsible for service experimentation focus and direction. Experimentation conducted by the Lab is designed to improve current and future naval expeditionary warfare capabilities by:

- Conducting concept-based experimentation to develop and evaluate tactics, techniques, procedures and technologies.
- Supporting MCCDC, Training and Education Command, and Systems Command to meet service-specific requirements.
- Supporting Joint experimentation through Wargaming Division's participation in Title X War Games, Joint Concept Development and Experimentation (JCDE) War Games, and External War Games.
- Forwarding results of experimentation to MCCDC's Capabilities Development Directorate (CDD) with recommendations for action.

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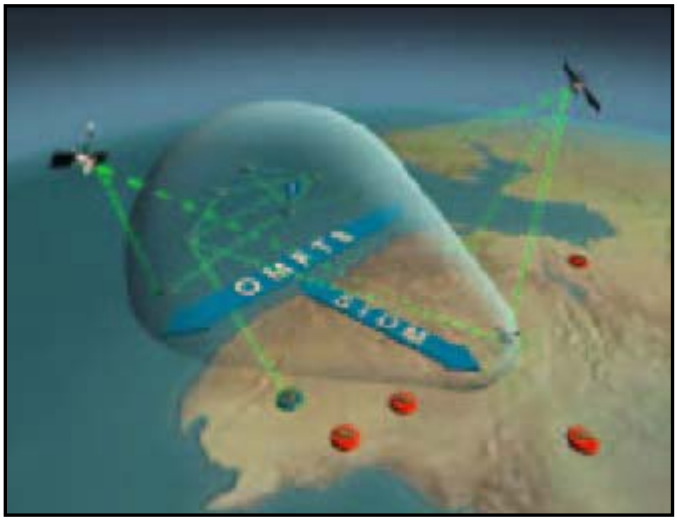

Sea Viking 06

SV06 is comprised of two areas of effort, Seabased Operations and Distributed Operations. Seabased Operations are focused on achieving capabilities to conduct STOM. Key objectives are refining the requirement and recommending solutions for tactical over the horizon/on the move voice and data communications, develop and assess expeditionary fire support system enhancements and develop a concept for enhancing the C2, maneuver and force protection of combat service support elements operating in a non-linear battlespace.

CMC Sea Viking Guidance

- Assess the future seabased MEB in a Joint Forcible Entry context
- Assess future MEB capability sets
- Assess seabased command relationships & interfaces across all warfighting functions
- Develop and assess an additive Distributed Operations capability
- Accelerate seabasing capabilities through experimentation and the use of existing technology

SV 06 will also examine the emerging Distributed Operations (DO) concept (a capability that deploys tactical units across the depth and breadth of a battlespace in order to maximize opportunities to achieve favorable intelligence driven engagements… enabled by a robust and easily accessible C4 backbone and prompt, responsive fires) and envisions experimentation with one rifle platoon from a selected Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable). The focus of SV 06 is identification and assessment of the training and advanced technologies required by small units within a forward deployed, seabased MAGTF that enable that force to conduct immediate JFEO.

MCWL Experimentation Plans for FY 07 and FY 08.

MCWL experiments during FY 07 and FY 08 will continue to focus on small unit enhancements associated with DO. FY 07 programs will identify, develop and test sustainment related DOTMLPF innovations that provide the flow of material and services required by combat units operating ashore per the DO concept. Concurrently, MCWL will begin the development of a "next generation" C2 architecture that includes tactical level OTH voice and data communications tailored to meet the information requirements of the individual rifleman up through the infantry company. Plans for FY 08 include testing the individual and collective C2 innovations as well as experiments to determine the utility of currently available ISR assets to small units that do not normally employ these assets.

The Lab has also identified high priority experiment efforts to satisfy current urgent needs of deployed USMC forces conducting combat operations. Counter IED technologies, a Mobile Counterfire System, vehicle and body armor experiments will continue as needed through FY 08.

In addition to the priority efforts linked to DO and support for Marines in combat, MCWL will conduct experiments that cover a wide variety of other innovations. These experiments will support joint programs, MCSC programs of record, and other areas selected by MCWL. FY 07 and 08 experiments that fall into these categories will assess advanced ground weapons, vehicle technologies, expeditionary medicine, un-manned aerial sensors, and sea basing technologies.